

CHUCK COLSON SAYS POPE DEFENDS CHRISTIAN ORTHODOXY

December 15, 1995 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org) -

In an article in the Religious News Service (October 16, 1995), Charles Colson, head of Prison Fellowship, described his October meeting with the Pope in New York City. He depicted the Pope as a great moral leader and a friend of biblical orthodoxy. Consider an excerpt:

"As one of the evangelicals present, I left with one conclusion: Those who defend eternal moral truths and Christian orthodoxy have taken their stand on common ground.

"The pope made it quite clear that he fully supports those of all persuasions who recognize, and work to counter, the enormous problems resulting from our society's flight from the truths of orthodoxy.

"When my eyes met the pope's, we stared across centuries of distrust and suspicion and found common ground. ... Orthodoxy is nothing less than that thread that connects the present to the past and the past to the future--and that is the thing that really bothers our adversaries."

Colson's blindness is incredible. Only biblical prophecies of last days apostasy can explain such blindness. The Pope of Rome, a defender of Christian orthodoxy! Why, everything he stands for uniquely as the Pope is contrary to the Bible. He claims to be the head of all the churches. He claims to be able to turn the bread and juice of the Lord's Supper into the very body and blood of Christ. He claims to be a spiritual father to all Christians. He claims, as a priest, to mediate between God and men. He claims to be able to influence the eternal destinies of men through his unscriptural sacraments. He claims that Mary is the Mother of God. He prays to her and adores her, and he thanked her for saving him when an assassin's bullet almost ended his life. He has "all yours" embroidered on his garments, and he admits that it refers to Mary. He claims that the blood of Christ was not sufficient to give men eternal life but that they also need Roman masses and baptisms and other rituals. In fact, he claims that even all of this might not be sufficient, and that even "the faithful" might have to go to a place called purgatory where their sins will finally be expunged.

The last statement we cited by Colson is telling. Colson claims that he has found common ground with Roman Catholicism. This is not because Romanism has changed, but it is because he himself represents an apostate form of Christianity known as modern evangelicalism which is so nonchalant about the truth that it cannot resist error. Colson says orthodoxy is the thread which connects the present with the past and the future. Not so. In relation to the Pope, it is not orthodoxy which connects the past and the future, but heresy. John Paul II represents ancient heresies which were affirmed by the anathemas of Trent; at the same time he represents that final apostate Mother of Harlots foretold in Revelation 17. Those who yoke

together with the Pope are yoked together with his blasphemies and heresies. The Bible warns of this:

"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Revelation 18:4).

An Independent Baptist pastor wrote to me this year and said he had heard a sermon by Colson at a Promise Keepers rally and he did not discern anything that was wrong. What ignorance. Wake up, friends! Don't be gullible. If you think Colson and his new-evangelical friends are preaching the truth, you haven't studied very diligently. You don't know what is going on. You don't know the ABC's of ecumenical compromise. The New Evangelical phenomenon is 50 years old and has been growing farther from the Word of God every decade. Where have you been? You haven't taken the time to read the material that is available to you by men who are spending small fortunes to research this type of thing in an effort to protect God's people. Why are so many church people ignorant? One reason is because so many of their pastors are ignorant.

"The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going" (Proverbs 14:15).